United Nations S/2003/376

Security Council

Distr.: General
27 March 2003

Original: English

Letter dated 26 March 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the communiqué issued by the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council, relating to the explosive situation in the Middle East region owing to the arms confrontation in Iraq (see annex).

I request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nassir Abdulaziz **Al-Nasser**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 26 March 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

Communiqué issued by the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council

The General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) expressed its extreme concern and deep regret at the current situation in the region, inasmuch as developments had culminated in military confrontation as a result of the failure of the intensified peace efforts made recently. The General Secretariat stated in its communiqué issued this evening that the GCC States had collectively made major efforts to prevent arrival at the current tragic situation. It expressed its hope that those developments would not increase the suffering and tragedy of the fraternal Iraqi people and affirmed the keen desire of the GCC States to surmount promptly the dilemma confronting the region by following a course designed to ensure the region's security and stability. It expressed once again its hope that military operations would be halted as soon as possible, in order to prevent further loss and sacrifice of innocent civilians, and that the path of peace efforts would be resumed. The General Secretariat stressed its rejection of any violation of the territorial integrity and independence of Iraq. It also stressed in its communiqué that it was imperative for the GCC States, and in particular Kuwait, to remain outside the field of military operations.

The General Secretariat concluded its communiqué by endorsing the firm positions of the GCC States, expressed in their previous communiqués, that the collective security of the GCC States was an indivisible whole and that the violation of the security of any one of them was a violation of the security of them all.